

Insurrection in this country in 2021. It is rooted in racism. It was initiated by racism. It was enabled by racism. It was facilitated by racism. It is being perpetuated by racism.

This week we saw an insurrection in the nation's capital. It didn't start with a mob on Wednesday. It started when White Supremacists elected a fellow White Supremacist as president. His rhetoric provided fertile ground for the growth of what had been a fringe movement. Racism is such an integral part of our national fabric that many people who do not want to be racist remained unaware of it until this past year. The movement to overturn the election sees white supremacists co-opting disaffected people. This led to open discussion of revolt on Wednesday, culminating in speeches by the white supremacist leaders launching the mob at the Congress.

They were able to partially succeed in their goal because the Capitol Police is, in the end, a racist institution. They viewed the largely white crowd as a non-threat, despite the public calls to do just what they did; attempt to prevent Congress from certifying the election through violent means.

Once inside the capitol building they were already contained. They could all have been arrested. Instead they were allowed to leave, peacefully, at their own pace.

The immediate cause the crowd latched onto was the lie that the election was stolen. White supremacists in both chambers of congress perpetuated this lie even after they themselves were threatened as a result.

We can all see the racist disparity between how these seditious traitors were treated as compared to Black Lives Matter protesters. Last summer marches that were organized with the goal of a peaceful protest were met with a militarized response. This winter a mob that had been organized with the intent of insurrection was not treated as a serious threat because they were white.

It's not over. Many of our leaders either still refuse to see the threat or side with the insurrectionists. We have a lot of work to do. Let's start with our house.